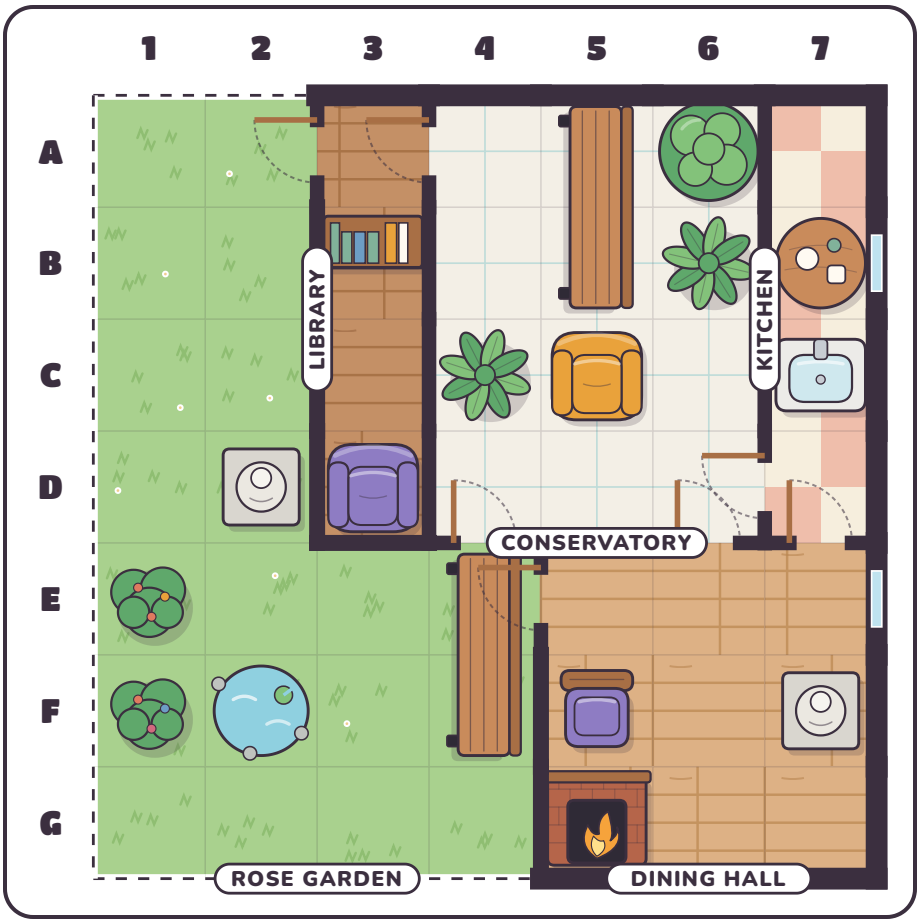
# Something Wicked at the Mansion

Someone swapped **Otto**'s drink. Everyone swears it wasn't them.




## What the witnesses say

**Hazel** the antique dealer
"She was beside a statue."

**Xavier** the painter
"He was beside a bush."

**Greta** the gardener
"She was beside a chair."

**Cyrus** the banker
"There was the fireplace in his row."

**Basil** the vicar
"He was beside a bench. He was not beside any plant."

**Bea** the florist
"There was the pond in her column. She was beside a statue."

**Otto** the victim
*Found dead — alone in a room with the killer.*

**CAN STAND / SIT ON**

chair · armchair · bench

**SOLID — NOBODY THERE**

table · plant · bookshelf · fireplace · sink · tree · bush · pond · statue

## The rules

1. Exactly one person in every row and every column.
2. Nobody stands on solid furniture.
3. Every statement is true. "Beside" = the square directly next to it; north is up.
4. The victim was alone in a room with exactly one other person: the killer.

## Your verdict

The killer was _____

in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

Answer and step-by-step solution: on the next page.

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# Solution: Something Wicked at the Mansion




THE KILLER

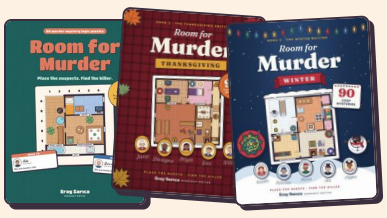
## Basil, the vicar

The only other person in the Conservatory with Otto.

Hazel E7 · Xavier D1 · Greta F6 · Cyrus G3 · Basil A4
Bea C2 · Otto B5

## How to solve it, step by step

1. Row B still needs someone, and only Otto can still stand in it — so Otto is somewhere in row B.
2. Row A still needs someone, and Basil is the only one who can still stand in it. In row A, "He was beside a bench. He was not beside any plant." fits only A4.
3. Column 3 still needs someone, and Cyrus is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 3, "There was the fireplace in his row." fits only G3.
4. Column 7 still needs someone, and Hazel is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 7, "She was beside a statue." fits only E7.
5. Xavier: "He was beside a bush." Of the squares that fit, only D1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Greta: "She was beside a chair." Of the squares that fit, only F6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Bea: "There was the pond in her column. She was beside a statue." Of the squares that fit, only C2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Otto, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B5, in the Conservatory.
9. Everyone is placed. Otto lies in the Conservatory, and the only other person in there is Basil. Basil is the killer.




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